

Application No. 10/719,332
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 19 and 21 is respectfully acknowledged.

New claims 23 and 24 have been added to recite the subject matter of allowable claims 19 and 21, respectively, rewritten in independent form. New claims 23 and 24 do not include the (unnecessary) limitations added to claim 1 in the Amendment filed on December 21, 2005.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that new independent claims 23 and 24 be approved and entered, and it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 23 and 24 are in condition for immediate allowance.

RE: CLAIM 1

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify that the radiation image radiographing apparatus is an apparatus for mammography by reciting a pressure plate, which is movable up and down with respect to the subject platform, for pressing and

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fixing the subject (which is supported on the subject platform), as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 22, lines 5-11.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 be approved and entered.

RE: THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 were again rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 2,680,199 ("Abel"); and claims 4, 7-10, 15, 20 and 22 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of various combinations of Abel and USP 5,177,778 ("Tsurumaki et al"), USP 5,737,386 ("Strawder"), and USP 6,934,361 ("Ohkoda"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

In the Amendment filed on December 21, 2005, it was pointed out that Abel does not disclose a radiographing apparatus for mammography in which the subject is supported so as to face the subject to the radiation source while the patient is in the upright position.

In response, the Examiner asserts that since "mammography" was only recited in the preamble of claim 1 it should not be given patentable weight, and the Examiner also asserts that the radiographing apparatus of Abel could radiograph a subject while

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the patient is in an upright position. The Examiner has suggested, moreover, that a compression plate should be recited to limit the apparatus of claim 1 to mammography.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the radiation image radiographing apparatus of the present invention comprises a pressure plate, which is movable up and down with respect to the subject platform, for pressing and fixing the subject. Thus, according to the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, a radiation image radiographing apparatus is provided which radiographs a patient in an upright position, wherein the apparatus comprises: a radiation source; a subject platform for supporting a subject so as to face the subject to the radiation source while the patient is in the upright position; a pressure plate, which is movable up and down with respect to the subject platform, for pressing and fixing the subject; and a plurality of supporting platforms for supporting a radiation image information detecting member for detecting radiation image information based on radiation transmitted through the subject, wherein the plurality of supporting platforms are positioned on an opposite side of the subject platform with respect to the radiation source. As recited in claim 1, the plurality of supporting platforms are individually movable from positions at fixed distances from the radiation

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source to be evacuated from a position in which the supporting platform faces the radiation source.

By contrast, Abel merely discloses a radiographing apparatus for radiographing a patient in a recumbent position, and it is respectfully submitted that Abel clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest a a pressure plate, which is movable up and down with respect to the subject platform, for pressing and fixing the subject as recited in amended claim 1, and it is respectfully submitted that Abel also does not disclose, teach or suggest a subject platform for supporting a subject so as to face the subject to the radiation source while the patient is in the upright position as recited in amended claim 1.

Indeed, the Examiner contends that X-ray table 10 of Abel corresponds to the subject platform of the claimed present invention, and it is respectfully pointed out that no element of Abel presses and fixes the subject supported by the X-ray table 10 in the manner of the pressure plate of the claimed present invention as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, as well as each of claims 4-10, 13-17 and 19-22 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Abel, taken singly or in combination with any of the other cited prior art references,

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under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103, along with new allowable claims 23 and 24.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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